

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/650,423

Examiner

Ross A. Williams

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/3/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-11 and 16-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

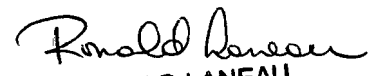
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Pegg on 8/1/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7

Line 11 after "from the first plurality" insert with the following -- of different manufacturer-limited game configuration values --

Line 18 after "second plurality" insert with the following -- of different manufacturer-limited game configuration values

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims specifically claims 1, 7 and 16 and associated dependent claims are directed to a method and apparatus for the configuration of a gaming machine. The claims are directed to the displaying of a first set of different maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values on a game configuration screen. Detecting the operators selection of one of the plurality of maximum number of pay lines and/or game

denomination values. In response to the operator selecting one of the first maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values for a single game machine theme, the game machine configuration menu will display a second plurality of maximum number of payline and/or game denomination values that are different from the first plurality of maximum pay lines and/or game denomination values. The configuration menu will then detect the operator's selection of the one of the second plurality of maximum payline and/or game denomination values. In response to the operator selecting a first and second plurality of maximum payline and/or game denomination values, the single gaming machine theme will then be configured for game play based upon both the first selected maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values and the second plurality of maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values.

The closest art of record namely Gauselmann (US 6,884,173), O'Donovan et al (US 2003/0195031) and Hughs-Baird (US 6,468,156) fail to teach or suggest alone or in combination the applicants claimed invention. The closest art of record such as Gauselmann teaches the use of a game configuration menu that displays to the operator that is configuring the game machine only one set of maximum payline values and/or game denomination values at a time. In response to the operator selecting one of the plurality of maximum payline values and/or game denomination values the game machine theme is configured for game play based upon that that selected value alone. The configuration menu does not present by means of a display to the operator a second plurality of maximum payline and/or game denomination values that.

Art Unit: 3714

Gauselmann does not teach or suggest the detecting the operator's selection of a second maximum payline values and/or game denomination values, wherein the game machine theme will be configured for game play based upon both the first selected maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values and the second plurality of maximum number of pay lines and/or game denomination values.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross A. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-5911. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

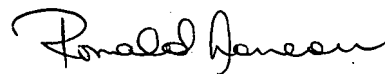
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



RAW
8/2/07



RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/6/07